I claim

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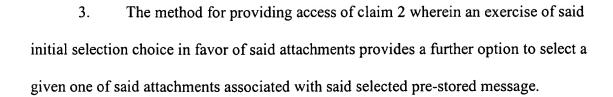
1. In a messaging system providing access for authorized users to pre-stored messages, wherein at least one of said pre-stored messages includes multiple message portions constituting an initial message and one or more attachments to said initial message, a method for providing access to selected portions of said pre-stored messages comprising the steps of:

providing a signal to a user indicative of at least one of said pre-stored messages being available for access by said user;

upon selection by said user of an available pre-stored message which includes multiple message portions, providing said user a different signal indicating that said selected pre-stored message includes both an initial message and one or more attachments;

providing a user option for selecting one message portion from a selected prestored message which includes an initial message with one or more attachments; and upon selection by a user of said one message portion of said selected pre-stored message, causing only said selected portion to be provided to said user.

2. The method for providing access of claim 1 wherein said user option for selection of said one message portion includes an initial selection choice between said initial message and said attachments.

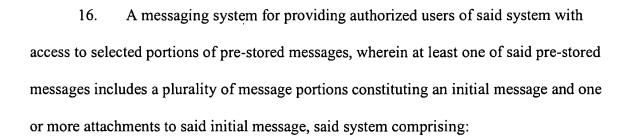


- 4. The method for providing access of claim 3 wherein said selection of said given one of said attachments is iteratively repeated to select additional ones of said attachments associated with said selected pre-stored message.
- 5. The method for providing access of claim 1 wherein at least one of said user selection steps is initiated by said user in response to a prompt generated by said messaging system.
- 6. The method for providing access of claim 5 wherein said user response includes an interrupt signal to said system prompt.
- 7. The method for providing access of claim 5 wherein said user response is manifested by engaging a pre-designated key on a keypad associated with said messaging system.
- 8. The method for providing access of claim 5 wherein selectable portions of said pre-stored messages are stored in a memory associated with a computer processor, and said user response is manifested by selection of said desired message portion via a graphical user interface associated with said computer processor.
- 9. The method for providing access of claim 1 wherein said messaging system is a voice mail system.

- 10. The method for providing access of claim 9 wherein said provision of said selected portion to said user is implemented via an audio playback of said selected portion.
- 11. The method for providing access of claim 1 further including a user option to return to a start position upon initiation by said user of a pre-designated interrupt signal.
- 12. The method for providing access of claim 1 wherein said pre-stored messages are formatted in the form of header and body records, and wherein said header section includes address, location and status information and said body section includes message content.
- 13. The method for providing access of claim 12 wherein, for a pre-stored message including attachments, said header section for an attachment includes a pointer to its associated initial message.
- 14. The method for providing access of claim 1 wherein said pre-stored messages may be coded to restrict selection of one or more portions of a message so coded to a predetermined number of user-selection operations.
- 15. The method for providing access of claim 1 wherein said pre-stored messages may be coded to restrict a forwarding of one or more portions of a message so coded to one or more identified users.

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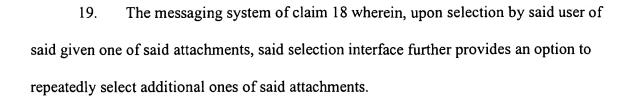
message available indicator operative to provide a signal to a user of at least one of said pre-stored messages being available for access by said user;

input device responsive to user input to select an available message for further processing by said system;

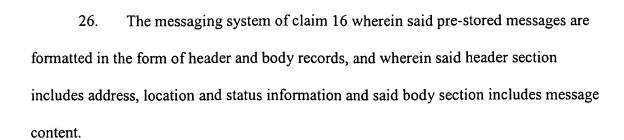
message attachments indicator operative provide a signal to said user indicating that a selected available message includes at least one attachment;

selection interface operating in conjunction with said input device for providing said user an option to select a desired portion of a message that includes attachments, and for accepting a signal from said user identifying said selected desired portion; and output device for providing said selected desired portion to said user.

- 17. The messaging system of claim 16 wherein said selection interface is operative to provide said user an initial selection choice between said initial message and said attachments.
- 18. The messaging system of claim 17 wherein said selection interface provides a further option to select a given one of said attachments associated with said selected pre-stored message.



- 20. The messaging system of claim 16 wherein said input device includes a keypad.
- 21. The messaging system of claim 16 a further including a computer processor, an associated memory and an associated graphical user interface, wherein selectable portions of said pre-stored messages are stored in said memory and said user selection of a desired message portion is manifested via said graphical user interface.
- 22. The messaging system of claim 16 wherein said system is configured for storing and processing voice mail.
- 23. The messaging system of claim 22 wherein said output device is configured as an audio playback device.
- 24. The messaging system of claim 16 further including a coding means operative to code said pre-stored messages to restrict selection of one or more portions of a message to a predetermined number of user-selection operations.
- 25. The messaging system of claim 16 further including a coding means operative to code said pre-stored messages to restrict a forwarding of one or more portions of a message to one or more identified users.



27. The messaging system of claim 26 wherein, for a pre-stored message including attachments, said header section for an attachment includes a pointer to its associated initial message.